



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Mr. Roberto Guerra
Assistant Director
Office of the Director General of
Fishing and Agriculture
Office of Secretary of Natural Resources
Government of Honduras
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
C.A., Apdo. 4710

Dear Mr. Guerra:

In our earlier letter to you (enclosed), we asked what steps the Government of Honduras is taking to ensure the safe return of the U.S. exported Atlantic bottlenose dolphins that escaped from the Institute for Marine Sciences (IMS) facility in Roatan. To date, we have not received a response.

The release of these Atlantic dolphins to the wild is both a threat to their health and welfare, and to the health and welfare of wild indigenous populations of dolphins in the Caribbean Sea. Issues of concern include disease transmission and genetic exchange between the released dolphins and any wild populations they encounter. Mr. Bolton provided the enclosed report in response to our request. We ask that you take all necessary action to determine the fate of the dolphins.

We look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ann Terbush, Chief, Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources at 301-713-2289.

Sincerely,

William W. Fox, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
Office of Protected Resources

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Eldon Bolton, IMS
Mr. John Twiss, Marine Mammal Commission
Dr. Morley Cook, APHIS





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RECEIVED

Mr. Roberto Guerra
Assistant Director
Office of the Director General of
Fishing and Agriculture
Office of Secretary of Natural Resources
Government of Honduras
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
C.A., Apdo. 4710

Dear Mr. Guerra:

We recently learned that the Atlantic bottlenose dolphins acquired from Ocean World, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, were released or escaped from the Institute For Marine Sciences (IMS), Routan, Honduras.

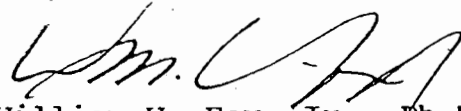
Since we have not received notification from IMS, the circumstances surrounding the releases are unknown. We would appreciate a description of the circumstances of the dolphins' release and any attempts to recapture them. What is particularly puzzling is that the Ministry of the Environment issued a license to IMS for construction of a canal to protect the dolphins from storms and hurricanes and to apparently prevent the conditions that currently exist. As indicated in the enclosed letter to Mr. Bolton, we are concerned that the present circumstances would appear to indicate a threat to the health and welfare of these individual dolphins.

U.S. standards would require that the dolphins be recaptured and returned to the public display facility. Since your September 5, 1994, letter to Ms. Terbush indicated your willingness to respect this agency's decisions with respect to these exported dolphins, we would appreciate your cooperation in our request that these animals be recaptured and returned to IMS for continued care.



If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ann Terbush,
Chief, Permits Division, at 301-713-2289.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wm. W. Fox, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William W. Fox, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
Office of Protected Resources

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Eldon Bolton, IMS
Mr. John Twiss, Marine Mammal Commission
Dr. Morley Cook, APHIS

Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences

Sandy Bay, Roatan, Honduras

Tel. (504) 45-1327 FAX (504) 45-1329

Fax Cover Sheet**DATE:** February 12, 1996**TIME:** 11:18 AM**TO:** William W. Fox, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, N.M.F.S.**PHONE:**
FAX: (301) 713-0370**FROM:** Eldon Bolton**RE:** Feb 1, 1996 correspondence**Number of pages including cover sheet:** 2**Message:**

Dear Dr. Fox,

I have just received your February 1 letter and will update you on the situation. At 3:00 A.M. on January 8, 1996 both of our dolphin facilities at I.M.S. were damaged by a severe storm. A total of ten dolphins were released into the adjacent lagoon, eight from one facility, which was virtually destroyed, and two from the second that received minor damage. At sunrise all ten of the animals were seen in the lagoon. Attempts to recapture the animals at that time would have put them at risk due to heavy currents. At about 7:00 a.m. one group of six was seen leaving the lagoon for open ocean, followed by another group of two at 8:30. The two remaining animals never left the lagoon and voluntarily returned to the facility later in the day. Continuing bad weather confined the search area to inside of the reef on the islands of Roatan, St. Helena, Morat and Barbaretta through January 10. Dive operators and local fishermen throughout the Bay Islands were notified to be on the lookout by phone and public service radio announcements. The animals were not sighted during this time.

On January 11 weather conditions allowed us to search offshore of the Islands by boat and aircraft. At 10 A.M. eight animals were sighted by plane approximately three and a half miles to the south west of the facility and a half mile offshore in 200 foot+ water depth. A search boat confirmed that these were the missing animals. With the exception of some obvious weight loss, all of the animals appeared well and were eating. The animals were fed throughout the day as we attempted to lead them toward shore into shallow water to attempt a recapture. They remained offshore, refusing to move into water less than 120 feet in depth. Once it became apparent that the animals were going to remain offshore, they were given vitamins and fed to capacity. By nightfall we had lost sight of the group, which was moving slowly to the west and offshore. That was the last time we saw the group.

On January 12 weather conditions worsened and the search offshore was discontinued. The offshore search resumed on January 14 in marginal conditions between the Islands of Roatan and Ulla, the direction that the animals were moving when last sighted. Conditions were ideal for the search on January 15 through the 19. During this time, the search area was expanded to include all of the Bay Islands by boat and the islands and Honduran north coast from the Guatemalan border to Cabo Camoron by air. DIGEPESCA was notified of the situation. Public service announcements were made on the

Honduran mainland by television, radio and newspaper. Belize Fisheries authorities were notified and public service radio announcements were made in Belize. Telephone contacts were made with dive operators and researchers working in the keys off of Belize.

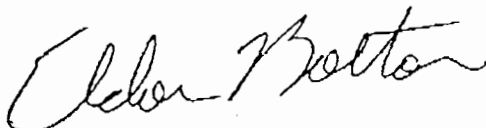
Poor visibility and rain slowed the search on January 20 and 21. On January 22 to the 25, two boats made a sweep of the Honduran north coast from Tela Bay to about 12 miles east of Cabo de Honduras with no sightings. The active search was discontinued on February 3, having not sighted the animals since January 11. At this time we are continuing to investigate any unusual sightings reported, however I fear that the animals moved in a north or north-easterly direction into the Caribbean and away from any land mass.

At this time we are completing reconstruction of the damaged facility with some modifications to prevent this from happening in the future. As this storm came without warning, there was no time to respond. It appears as though material from adjacent damaged docks and debris pushed in by high winds and rain built up against the facility. This combined with an unusually high tidal surge and completely destroyed two piers of the enclosure, providing a 60 foot opening and releasing the animals. The facility mentioned in your February 1 correspondence to Sr. Guerra of DIGEPESCA will not be complete until August of 1996.

This staff has performed above and beyond the call of duty over the last 14 months while acclimating the Ocean World animals to this facility. On February 28, 1995 the first calf was born here. He is among the missing animals. This event represents a major financial loss to this business, but most importantly an incalculable emotional loss to these people. I assure you that every possible attempt has been made to find and recover these animals.

I will be traveling to the U.S. on February 16 and plan to send you a map of the area so that you can visualize the area and what was searched. I will also update our inventory report by listing the animals as escaped. If this information changes either through a confirmed sighting or recovery of remains, the appropriate changes will be made to the inventory. If you have any more questions, please try to fax me by February 14 at (504) 45-1329.

Sincerely,



Eldon Bolton

Director



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

APR 11 1996

Mr. Eldon Bolton
Director
Institute for Marine Sciences, Inc.
Anthony's Key Resort
Roatan, Bay Islands
Honduras

Dear Mr. Bolton:

Thank you for providing our office with a report on the escape of the U.S. exported Atlantic bottlenose dolphins acquired from Ocean World in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Please provide us with an update on your efforts to recapture the dolphins. We also need for you to provide revised data sheets which reflect the current situation for the marine mammal inventory mandated under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

If you have any question, please contact me at (301) 713-2289.

Sincerely,

Ann D. Terbush
Chief, Permits Division
Office of Protected Resources





SECRETARIA
DE RECURSOS
NATURALES

DIRECCION GENERAL
DE PESCA
Y ACUICULTURA



DIGEPESCA
Nota NQ 101-96

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
20 de marzo de 1996

Señor
WILLIAM W. FOX, Jr., PH.D
Director
Office of PROTECTED RESOURCES
Su oficina,

Estimado Sr. Fox :

De acuerdo a la información solicitada por su persona en el sentido de informar a su oficina sobre el escape de los DELFINES PICO DE BOTELLA (*Tursiops Truncatus*), enviados por el Ocean World al Instituto de Ciencias Marinas (I.M.S.) con sede en la Isla de Roatán, Islas de la Bahía, la DIGEPESCA ha recibido de parte del Señor Eldon Bolton, Director del I.M.S. la siguiente información:

" A las 3:00 de la mañana el 8 de enero de 1996, ambas de nuestras instalaciones en el I.M.S. fueron dañadas por una fuerte tormenta. Un total de diez (10) delfines fueron liberados hacia una laguna adyacente, ocho (8) de una de las instalaciones que se encontraba virtualmente destruida y dos (2) de la otra que sufrió un menor daño. Al amanecer los diez (10) animales fueron vistos en la laguna. Intentos por recapturarlos en ese momento los hubiesen puesto en peligro debido a las fuertes corrientes. Alrededor de las 7:00 a.m., un grupo de seis (6) fue visto abandonando la laguna hacia mar abierto, seguido por otro grupo de dos (2) a las 8:30 a.m., los dos (2) animales que quedaban nunca abandonaron la laguna, regresando en el transcurso del día a las Instalaciones del Instituto. Como el mal tiempo siguió, el área de búsqueda fue reducida a las cercanías de las Costas de las Islas de la Bahía, Sta. Helena, Morat y Barbaretta hasta el 10 de enero. Operadores de buceo y los pescadores locales alrededor de las Islas de la Bahía fueron avisados por radio y teléfono para que estuvieran al pendiente, los animales no fueron vistos hasta ese día.

Oficinas Principales: Boulevard Miraflores, Apartado Postal 309, Tegucigalpa, M. D. C., Honduras, C. A.
Central Telefónica: 32-8600 39-1982 39-1987 39-1994 Fax: 32-4054 Telex: SERENA No. 8071
Regional San Lorenzo 81-2333 Regional Choluteca 82-2062 Regional San Pedro Sula 56-6327 Regional Tela 48-2262
Regional La Ceiba 42-0068 Regional Trujillo 44-4540 Regional Guanaja 45-4106 Regional Roatán 45-1189
Centro Investigación Piscícola El Carao 72-0409 Jardín Zoológico Metropolitano El Picacho 21-8540



SECRETARIA
DE RECURSOS
NATURALES

DIRECCION GENERAL
DE PESCA
Y ACUICULTURA



El 11 de enero las condiciones climatológicas nos permitieron realizar una búsqueda por mar y aire. A las 10 a.m., ocho (8) animales fueron vistos por avión aproximadamente 3 millas y media al sur de las instalaciones y media milla de las costas en una depresión de 200 piés+ agua. Un barco rastreador confirmó que se trataba de los animales perdidos. Con la excepción de notarse pérdida de peso en ellos, los animales se observaban bien y se encontraban comiendo. Los animales fueron alimentados durante todo el día a lo largo de la costa y tratados de llevar a aguas poco profundas para intentar recapturarlos. Se mantuvieron cerca de la costa negándose a moverse a aguas menores a los 120 metros de profundidad. Una vez que notamos que los animales se mantendrían alejados se les alimentó a su capacidad y se les dió vitaminas. Al caer la noche perdimos las señales del grupo, los que se movían lentamente hacia el este de las costas. Fue esa la última vez que vimos el grupo.

El 12 de enero las condiciones del clima empeoraron y la búsqueda se tuvo que detener. El reporte del 14 de enero reportaban las costas de Roatán y Utila en malas condiciones y no se divisaban los animales, los que fueron vistos en esa dirección por última vez. Las condiciones fueron ideales para la búsqueda los días 15 al 19. Durante este tiempo el área de búsqueda se expandió incluyendo toda el área de las Islas de la Bahía por barco y las Islas y las costas del Norte de Honduras desde la frontera de Guatemala al Cabo Camerón por aire. DIGEPESCA fue notificada de la situación. Servicios públicos fueron realizados en el territorio de Honduras por televisión, radio y periódico. Las autoridades pesqueras fueron notificadas y los servicios públicos de anuncios por radio se hacen en Belize. Contactos telefónicos fueron realizados con los operadores de buceo y buscadores están trabajando en los Cayos de Belize.

Poca visibilidad y lluvia retrasaron la búsqueda en enero 20 y 21. En enero 22 al 25, dos barcos rastrearon las Costas de el norte de Honduras desde la Bahía de Tela hasta unas 12 millas al este del Cabo de Honduras sin ningun hallazgo. La activa búsqueda fue descontinuada el 3 de febrero, sin haber visto los animales desde el 11 de febrero. Continuamos investigando cualquier posible señal de los delfines reportada, de cualquier forma estoy temeroso de que los delfines se hallan movido en dirección norte o noreste y hacia cualquier dirección de tierra.

Oficinas Principales: Boulevard Miraflores, Apartado Postal 309, Tegucigalpa, M. D. C., Honduras, C. A.

Central Telefónica: 32-8600 39-1982 39-1987 39-1994 Fax: 32-4054 Telex: SERENA No. 8071

Regional San Lorenzo 81-2333 Regional Choluteca 82-2062 Regional San Pedro Sula 56-6327 Regional Tela 48-2262

Regional La Ceiba 42-0068 Regional Trujillo 44-4540 Regional Guanaja 45-4106 Regional Roatán 45-1189

Centro Investigación Piscícola El Carao 72-0409 Jardín Zoológico Metropolitano El Picacho 21-8540



SECRETARIA
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NATURALES

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DE PESCA
Y ACUICULTURA




A esta altura de tiempo estamos completando la reconstrucción de los daños los que facilitaron que esto ocurriera, previniendo así que esto se repita en un futuro. Como esta tormenta llegó sin aviso, no hubo tiempo de reaccionar. Apareció dañando los materiales del fondo del dique y los restos fueron empujados por los fuertes vientos y la lluvia facilitando la huída. Esto combinado con una inusual marea alta, destruyeron por completo dos espolones del cercado, proporcionando una abertura de 60 piés y liberando los animales. Las instalaciones mencionadas en la correspondencia del 1 de febrero al Sr. Guerra de DIGEPESCA no serán completadas sino hasta en agosto de 1996.

Este staff ha realizado su deber durante los últimos 14 meses aclimatando los animales del Ocean World a estas instalaciones. En febrero 28 de 1995 nació aquí la primer cría, el que se encuentra entre los animales perdidos. Esto representa una mayor pérdida financiera a este negocio, pero más que ello representa una pérdida emocional incalculable para esta gente. Le repito a usted que todo lo posible por recuperar estos animales se está realizando."

Lo anterior constituye el informe del Sr. Eldon Bolton presentado a esta Dirección. Estaremos comunicándole cualquier información que al respecto de la recaptura de los delfines se refiera.

Atentamente,


Dr. MARCO POLO MICHELLETTI
Director General DIGEPESCA



c.c. Sub Director DIGEPESCA
c.c. Archivo.

Oficinas Principales: Boulevard Miraflores, Apartado Postal 309, Tegucigalpa, M. D. C., Honduras, C. A.
Central Telefónica: 32-8600 39-1982 39-1987 39-1994 Fax: 32-4054 Telex: SERENA No. 8071
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Regional La Ceiba 42-0068 Regional Trujillo 44-4540 Regional Guanaja 45-4106 Regional Roatán 45-1189
Centro Investigación Piscícola El Carao 72-0409 Jardín Zoológico Metropolitano El Picacho 21-8540

On January 8 a storm moved through the Instituto de Ciencias Marinas' (IMS) facilities, damaging them. Due to these damages ten dolphins were able to escape. Only two of the dolphins came back to the facilities, while the rest swam offshore. The eight dolphins were seen on January 11th about 3.5 miles south of the installation but they would maintain their distance from rescuers. They were fed and during that night we lost track of them. Search and rescue efforts continued until February 3 without success. WE are afraid that the dolphins have swam to the north or northeast. The IMS staff had done its duty during the last 14 months of acclimatizing the dolphins. On February 28 1995 the first dolphin was born in the facilities (that dolphin is among the missing). We are doing our best to find these dolphins. [This is a summary of the report presented by Eldon Bolton to DIGEPESCA]

[158] From: Dennis Weidner at ~NMFS-4 7/12/96 2:15PM (553 bytes: 4 ln)

To: Ann Terbush

cc: Fred Beaudry, Julio Serrano, Steven Swartz at ~NMFS-6, William Folsom,
Mark Wildman, Ann Hochman, Trevor Spradlin, Theia Washington

Subject: Re[2]: Translation

----- Message Contents -----

Great. Who ever retypes it will probably have trouble with the Spanish charcters. If they are using DOS, I can shop them how to type the chaacters. If they are using Windows, Bill or Mark could show them.

[155] From: Ann Terbush 7/12/96 12:34PM (789 bytes: 9 ln)
To: Ann Hochman, Trevor Spradlin
Subject: Honduras letter

----- Message Contents -----

Ann--I need you or Trevor to follow up on the Honduras letter (see Weidner e-mail exchange); we need a full enough translation to check on what follow-up is necessary. Theia has been studying Spanish, and it may be possible to have her carry the ball on this. There is no super rush; the letter was probably lost on Bill Fox's desk until it resurfaced with Bill W. recently. I doubt that there is any hope for recovering these dolphins, but our handling of this will have implications for the comity issue. Please consult with Trevor let me know how you decide to handle this--Ann

[153] From: Ann Terbush at ~NMFS-4 7/12/96 12:24PM (6131 bytes: 65 ln, 1 fl)
To: Dennis Weidner
cc: Fred Beaudry, Julio Serrano, Steven Swartz at ~NMFS-6, William Folsom,
Mark Wildman, Ann Hochman, Trevor Spradlin, Theia Washington
Subject: Re: Translation

----- Message Contents -----

Text item 1:

Thanks, Dennis, for your prompt reply, and to Julio for the summary. We understand the staffing constraints, and do not need a very formal translation. It sounds like the computer translation option may be best, with a clean-up session arranged with you or Julio. We'll look into retyping the document. I'll work with my staff on that, and we'll get back in touch with you. We appreciate your help!

[1583] From: Dennis Weidner at ~NMFS-4 7/12/96 11:59AM (5190 bytes: 44 ln, 1 fl)
To: Ann Terbush
cc: Fred Beaudry, Julio Serrano, Steven Swartz at ~NMFS-6, William Folsom,
Mark Wildman
Subject: Translation

----- Message Contents -----

Text item 1:

Bill passed on to me the letter from Honduras that you wanted a summary of. Translations are an ongoing problem for us as quite a few people in NMFS need translations, but we are unfortunately not staffed to produce them. It would be very close to a full time job and we are working on a rush job. Even just reading over documents to produce a summary takes some time.

We do, however, offer some limited help.

1. I am willing to sit down with some one and go over short letters and documents in Spanish. I prefer to do it this way as it is much more time consuming for us to produce a written document and it gives the requestor the chance to ask the meaning of specific passages/sentences of greatest interest. Spanish is close enough to English that most of the time, the requestor can spot the section or passages of greatest interest. (In this specific case Julio Serrano in our office has prepared the brief attached summary for you.)

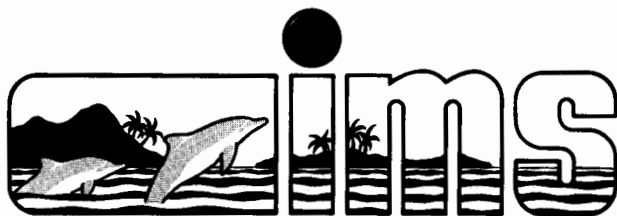
2. We have computer translation software (Spanish and German) and if you provide an accurate WP51 document (in courier), we can run a full translation, either Spanish to English or English to Spanish. A Spanish document to be translated has to have the accents and Spanish characters. The result is very rough, but understandable. Again while we do not have the staff to clean up the output, I would be glad to sit down with the requestor (for Spanish documents) to go sections of the output that he or she would like to clean up.

3. Because of the various students who work or have worked in our office, we generally are in contact with individuals

who can provide translation services, of course for a fee.

4. For issues which involve State (tuna/dolphin, shrimp/turtle, etc.), the State Department is sometimes willing to do formal translations. The turn about time, however, is often lengthy. Hollis Summers in OMC has helped me in the past with this.

There's no good solution to the problem as if you are not staffed to do something, it is just not possible to do it. However, I hope the above and the attached summary help.



institute for marine sciences
instituto de ciencias marinas

APR 25 REC'D

Eldon Bolton
Institute for Marine Sciences
Sandy Bay
Roatan, Honduras

April 19, 1996



William W. Fox, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
Office of Protected Resources

Dear Dr. Fox,

I have enclosed data sheet updates for each of the animals that escaped from this facility on January 8, 1996. Included are two maps which should give you a better idea of the search area. I have not received any additional information concerning the whereabouts of the dolphins since my last correspondence on February 12, 1996. Each animal has been listed as an unauthorized release/escape. Should the disposition of any of the animals change, I will notify you promptly.

Sincerely,


Eldon Bolton

Enclosures (10)

education • research • conservation • recreation

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

(Recommended Format - 2/1/95)

Date

3/19/96

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN:

SN:

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:Holder: Institute for Marine Sciences Facility: _____
Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal Name of Holding Facility (if different from Holder)Date assumed custody: 02-28-95 Date arrived at Holding Facility: 02-28-95
City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): Rosatan, Honduras
Location of Holding FacilityAnimal Identification No. 9502-B-M01 Animal Name: Polito
(assigned by holder) (assigned by holder)Captive Purpose(s): ☒ Public display ☐ Scientific research ☐ Enhancement**II. Animal-Specific:**Species: bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncatus Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female ☐ Unknown
Common Name Scientific NameNOAA Identification No. W0A0004536 (☒ check here if unknown or not yet assigned)Date of birth: 02-28-95 ☒ Actual ☐ Estimated ☐ UnknownCaptive Origin (check only one): ☒ Captive born ☐ Wild capture ☐ Beached/stranded ☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 02-28-95 (ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)**III. Source:** Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained.☒ Captive birth☐ Transfer Name of Previous Holder: _____☐ Import Permit No. _____ or ☐ For Medical Treatment Otherwise Unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))☐ Beached/stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild capture Permit No. _____ Collector: _____Location: _____
Latitude/Longitude Geographical Name**IV. Disposition:** The date and reason this animal left your custody.☐ Transfer Date: _____ Recipient: _____☐ Death Date: _____ Cause: ☐ Premature/Still Birth ☐ Euthanasia ☐ Other CauseIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒ Release Date: 01-08-96 Permit No. _____ or ☒ Unauthorized release/escape
(Reintroduction)Location: N16°19'41"/W86°34'33"
Latitude/Longitude Tag Number or Description of Other Identifying Markings

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

Date 3/19/96
SHT# _____

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN: PHF000202 SN: 054

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:

Holder: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal

Facility: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Name of Facility (if different from Holder)

Date assumed custody: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4Date arrived at Facility: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): HONDURAS, HO

Location of Facility

Animal Identification No. _____

(assigned by holder)

Animal Name: DIMPLES II

(assigned by holder)

Captive Purpose(s): ☒ Public display ☐ Scientific research ☐ Enhancement

II. Animal-Specific:

Species: ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN - TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS

Common Name - Scientific Name

Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female ☐ UnknownNOAA Identification No. NOA0004528(☐ check here if unknown or not yet assigned)Date of birth: 0 1 - 0 1 - 6 5☐ Actual☒ Estimated☐ UnknownCaptive Origin (check only one): ☐ Captive born ☒ Wild capture ☐ Beach/stranded ☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 0 6 - 0 1 - 7 0 (ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)

III. Source:

 Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained, including change in facility.☐ Captive birth☒ Transfer/
TransportName of Previous Holder: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATESName of Previous Facility: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATES☐ Import Permit No. _____ or ☐ For medical treatment otherwise unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))☐ Beach/Stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild Capture

Permit No. _____

Collector: _____

Location: _____

Latitude/Longitude

Geographical Name

IV. Disposition:

 The date and reason this animal left your custody or changed facility.☐ Transfer/
Transport

Date: _____

Recipient: _____

Facility: _____

☐ Death

Date: _____

Cause: ☐ Premature/still birth ☐ Euthanasia ☐ OtherIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒ ReleaseDate: 01 - 08 - 96

Permit No. _____

or ☒ Unauthorized release/escape
(reintroduction)Location: 16°19'41"W 86°34'33"

Latitude/Longitude

Tag number or description of other identifying markings

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

Date 3/19/96
SHT# _____

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN: PHF000202 SN: 054

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:

Holder: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal

Facility: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Name of Facility (if different from Holder)

Date assumed custody: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4Date arrived at Facility: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): HONDURAS, HO

Location of Facility

Animal Identification No. _____

(assigned by holder)

Animal Name: APOLLO

(assigned by holder)

Captive Purpose(s):

☒ Public display☐ Scientific research☐ Enhancement

II. Animal-Specific:

Species: ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN - TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS

Common Name - Scientific Name

Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female ☐ UnknownNOAA Identification No. NOA0004535(☐ check here if unknown or not yet assigned)Date of birth: 0 6 - 2 0 - 9 2☒ Actual☐ Estimated☐ Unknown

Captive Origin (check only one):

☒ Captive born☐ Wild capture☐ Beach/stranded☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 0 6 - 2 0 - 9 2

(ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)

III. Source: Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained, including change in facility.

☐ Captive birth☒ Transfer/
TransportName of Previous Holder: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATESName of Previous Facility: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATES☐ Import

Permit No. _____

or

☐ For medical treatment otherwise unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))☐ Beach/Stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild Capture

Permit No. _____

Collector: _____

Location: _____

Latitude/Longitude

Geographical Name

IV. Disposition: The date and reason this animal left your custody or changed facility.

☐ Transfer/
Transport

Date: _____

Recipient: _____

Facility: _____

☐ Death

Date: _____

Cause: ☐ Premature/still birth☐ Euthanasia☐ OtherIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒ ReleaseDate: 01 - 04 - 96

Permit No. _____

or

☒ Unauthorized release/escape

(reintroduction)

Location: N16°19'41"W86°34'33"

Latitude/Longitude

Tag number or description of other identifying markings

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

Date

SHT#

3/19/96

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN: PHF000202 SN: 054

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:

Holder: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal

Facility: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Name of Facility (if different from Holder)

Date assumed custody: 09 - 15 - 94Date arrived at Facility: 09 - 15 - 94City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): HONDURAS,HO

Location of Facility

Animal Identification No. _____

(assigned by holder)

Animal Name: SPIRIT

(assigned by holder)

Captive Purpose(s):

☒ Public display☐ Scientific research☐ Enhancement

II. Animal-Specific:

Species: ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN - TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS

Common Name - Scientific Name

Sex: ☐ Male ☒ Female ☐ UnknownNOAA Identification No. NOA0004534(☐ check here if unknown or not yet assigned)Date of birth: 10 - 20 - 91☒ Actual☐ Estimated☐ Unknown

Captive Origin (check only one):

☒ Captive born☐ Wild capture☐ Beach/stranded☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 10 - 20 - 91

(ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)

III. Source: Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained, including change in facility.

☐ Captive birth☒ Transfer/
TransportName of Previous Holder: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATESName of Previous Facility: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATES☐ Import

Permit No. _____

or

☐ For medical treatment otherwise unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))☐ Beach/Stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild Capture

Permit No. _____

Collector: _____

Location: _____

Latitude/Longitude

Geographical Name

IV. Disposition: The date and reason this animal left your custody or changed facility.

☐Transfer/
Transport

Date: _____

Recipient: _____

Facility: _____

☐

Death

Date: _____

Cause:

☐ Premature/still birth☐ Euthanasia☐ OtherIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒

Release

Date: 01 - 08 - 96

Permit No. _____

or ☒ Unauthorized release/escape
(reintroduction)Location: N16°19'41"W 86°34'33"

Latitude/Longitude

Tag number or description of other identifying markings

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

Date
SHT#

3/19/96

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN: PHF000202 SN: 054

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:

Holder: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal

Facility: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Name of Facility (if different from Holder)

Date assumed custody: 09 - 15 - 94Date arrived at Facility: 09 - 15 - 94City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): HONDURAS, HO

Location of Facility

Animal Identification No. _____

(assigned by holder)

Animal Name: ECHO

(assigned by holder)

Captive Purpose(s):

☒ Public display☐ Scientific research☐ Enhancement

II. Animal-Specific:

Species: ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN - TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS

Common Name - Scientific Name

Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female ☐ UnknownNOAA Identification No. NOA0004533(☐ check here if unknown or not yet assigned)Date of birth: 01 - 19 - 90☒ Actual☐ Estimated☐ Unknown

Captive Origin (check only one):

☒ Captive born☐ Wild capture☐ Beach/stranded ☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 01 - 19 - 90

(ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)

III. Source: Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained, including change in facility.

☐ Captive birth☒ Transfer/
TransportName of Previous Holder: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATESName of Previous Facility: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATES☐ Import

Permit No. _____

or

☐ For medical treatment otherwise unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))☐ Beach/Stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild Capture

Permit No. _____

Collector: _____

Location: _____

Latitude/Longitude

Geographical Name

IV. Disposition: The date and reason this animal left your custody or changed facility.

☐Transfer/
Transport

Date: _____

Recipient: _____

Facility: _____

☐

Death

Date: _____

Cause:

☐ Premature/still birth☐ Euthanasia☐ OtherIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒

Release

Date: 01 - 08 - 96

Permit No. _____

or

☐ Unauthorized release/escape

(reintroduction)

Location: W16°19'41/W86°34'33

Latitude/Longitude

Tag number or description of other identifying markings

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

Date 3/19/96
SHT# _____

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN: PHF000202 SN: 054

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:

Holder: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal

Facility: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Name of Facility (if different from Holder)

Date assumed custody: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4Date arrived at Facility: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): HONDURAS, HO

Location of Facility

Animal Identification No. _____

(assigned by holder)

Animal Name: DELTA

(assigned by holder)

Captive Purpose(s):

☒ Public display☐ Scientific research☐ Enhancement

II. Animal-Specific:

Species: ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN - TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS

Common Name - Scientific Name

Sex: ☐ Male ☒ Female ☐ UnknownNOAA Identification No. NOA0004531(☐ check here if unknown or not yet assigned)Date of birth: 0 1 - 0 1 - 8 6☐ Actual☒ Estimated☐ Unknown

Captive Origin (check only one):

☐ Captive born☒ Wild capture☐ Beach/stranded☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 0 1 - 2 8 - 8 8

(ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)

III. Source: Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained, including change in facility.

☐ Captive birth☒ Transfer/
TransportName of Previous Holder: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATESName of Previous Facility: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATES☐ Import

Permit No. _____

or ☐

For medical treatment otherwise unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))

☐ Beach/Stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild Capture

Permit No. _____

Collector: _____

Location: _____

Latitude/Longitude

Geographical Name

IV. Disposition: The date and reason this animal left your custody or changed facility.

☐ Transfer/
Transport

Date: _____

Recipient: _____

Facility: _____

☐ Death

Date: _____

Cause: ☐

Premature/still birth

☐ Euthanasia☐ OtherIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒ ReleaseDate: 01 - 08 - 96

Permit No. _____

(reintroduction) /

or ☒

Unauthorized release/escape

Location: N16°19'41"W 86°34'33"

Latitude/Longitude

Tag number or description of other identifying markings

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

Date
SHT#

3/19/96

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN: PHF000202 SN: 054

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:

Holder: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal

Facility: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Name of Facility (if different from Holder)

Date assumed custody: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4Date arrived at Facility: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): HONDURAS, HO

Location of Facility

Animal Identification No. _____

(assigned by holder)

Animal Name: TAG

(assigned by holder)

Captive Purpose(s):

☒ Public display☐ Scientific research☐ Enhancement

II. Animal-Specific:

Species: ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN - TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS

Common Name - Scientific Name

Sex: ☐ Male ☒ Female ☐ UnknownNOAA Identification No. NOA0004530☐ check here if unknown or not yet assignedDate of birth: 0 7 - 1 1 - 8 7☒ Actual☐ Estimated☐ Unknown

Captive Origin (check only one):

☒ Captive born☐ Wild capture☐ Beach/stranded☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 0 7 - 1 1 - 8 7

(ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)

III. Source:

 Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained, including change in facility.☐ Captive birth☒ Transfer/
TransportName of Previous Holder: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATESName of Previous Facility: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATES☐ Import

Permit No. _____

or

☐ For medical treatment otherwise unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))☐ Beach/Stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild Capture

Permit No. _____

Collector: _____

Location: _____

Latitude/Longitude

Geographical Name

IV. Disposition:

 The date and reason this animal left your custody or changed facility.☐ Transfer/
Transport

Date: _____

Recipient: _____

Facility: _____

☐ Death

Date: _____

Cause: ☐ Premature/still birth☐ Euthanasia☐ OtherIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒ ReleaseDate: 01 - 08 - 96

Permit No. _____

(reintroduction)

or

☒ Unauthorized release/escapeLocation: N16°19'41"W 86°34'33"

Latitude/Longitude

Tag number or description of other identifying markings

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET

Date
SHT#

3/19/96

OMB No. 0648-0084, exp 9/30/96

HN: PHF000202 SN: 054

For NMFS Use Only

I. Holder-Specific:

Holder: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Person or other Entity With Custody of the Marine Mammal

Facility: INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

Name of Facility (if different from Holder)

Date assumed custody: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4Date arrived at Facility: 0 9 - 1 5 - 9 4City/State/Zip (include Country for foreign facilities): HONDURAS, HO

Location of Facility

Animal Identification No. _____

(assigned by holder)

Animal Name: DIANA II

(assigned by holder)

Captive Purpose(s): ☒ Public display ☐ Scientific research ☐ Enhancement

II. Animal-Specific:

Species: ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN + TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS

Common Name - Scientific Name

Sex: ☐ Male ☒ Female ☐ UnknownNOAA Identification No. NOA0004529 (☐ check here if unknown or not yet assigned)Date of birth: 0 6 - 0 1 - 7 2 ☒ Actual ☐ Estimated ☐ UnknownCaptive Origin (check only one): ☒ Captive born ☐ Wild capture ☐ Beach/stranded ☐ UnknownDate of original captivity: 0 6 - 0 1 - 7 2 (ATTACH documentation if before December 21, 1972.)

III. Source: Indicate how and from whom custody of this animal was obtained, including change in facility.

☐ Captive birth☒ Transfer/
TransportName of Previous Holder: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATESName of Previous Facility: OCEAN WORLD ASSOCIATES☐ Import Permit No. _____ or ☐ For medical treatment otherwise unavailable (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)(2))☐ Beach/Stranded (Please see notes)☐ Wild Capture Permit No. _____ Collector: _____Location: _____
Latitude/Longitude Geographical Name

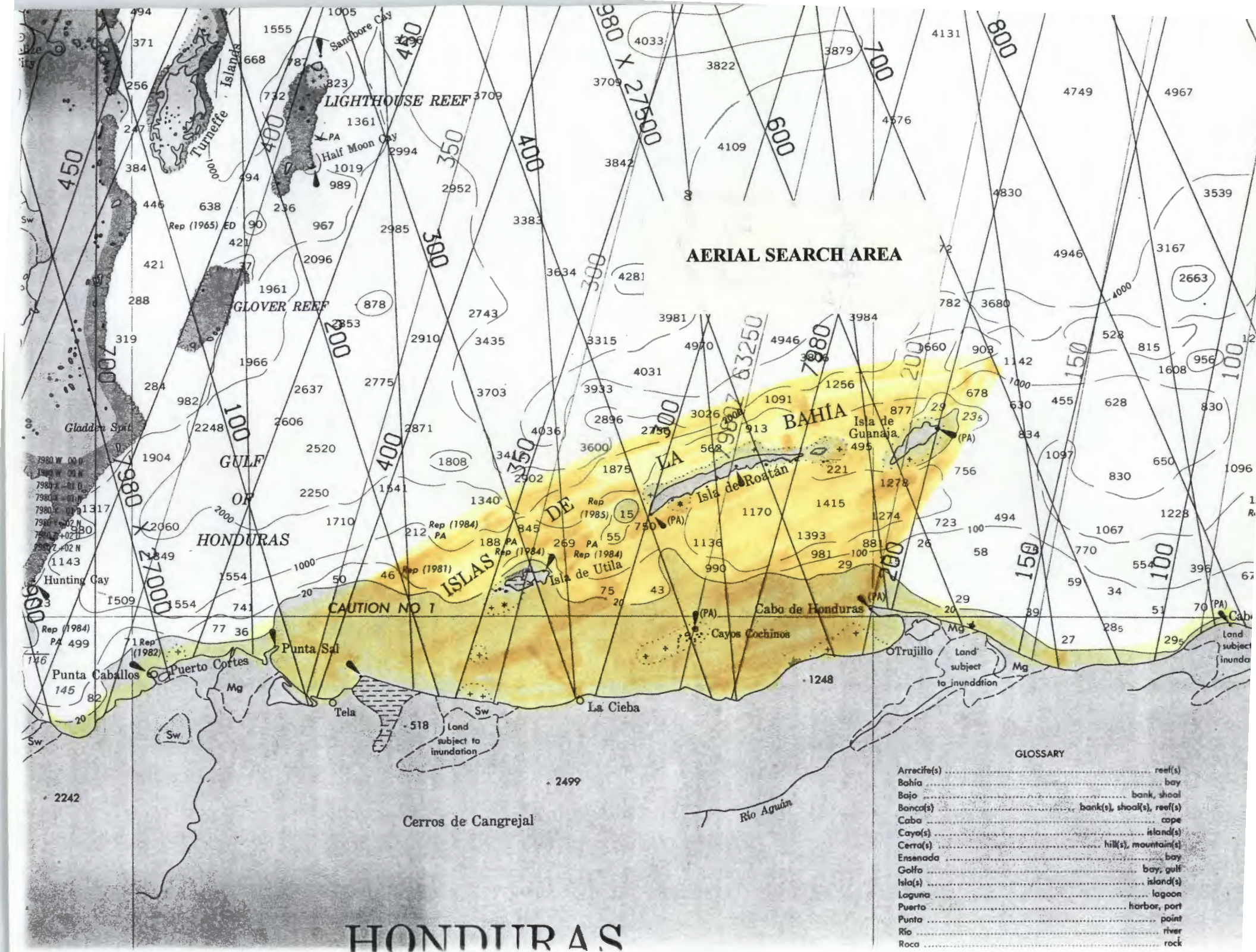
IV. Disposition: The date and reason this animal left your custody or changed facility.

☐ Transfer/ Date: _____ - _____ - _____ Recipient: _____
Transport Facility: _____☐ Death Date: _____ - _____ - _____ Cause: ☐ Premature/still birth ☐ Euthanasia ☐ OtherIf "Euthanasia," indicate reason: ☐ life-threatening condition involving pain/suffering or ☐ other

If "Other Cause," describe briefly: _____

☒ Release Date: 01-08-96 Permit No. _____ or ☒ Unauthorized release/escape
(reintroduction)Location: N16°19'41"N 86°34'33"
Latitude/Longitude

Tag number or description of other identifying markings



AERIAL SEARCH AREA

CAUTION NO 1

GLOSSARY

- Arrecife(s) reef(s)
- Bahía bay
- Bajo bank, shoal
- Bonca(s) bank(s), shoal(s), reef(s)
- Cabo cape
- Cayo(s) island(s)
- Cerro(s) hill(s), mountain(s)
- Ensenada bay
- Golfo bay, gulf
- Isla(s) island(s)
- Laguna lagoon
- Puerto harbor, port
- Punta point
- Río river
- Roca rock

HONDURAS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FEB 1 1966

Mr. Eldon Bolton
Director
Institute for Marine Sciences, Inc.
Anthony's Key Resort
Roatan, Bay Islands
Honduras

Dear Mr. Bolton:

We were sorry to hear of recent serious weather conditions and resulting release or escape from the Institute for Marine Sciences (IMS) of the Atlantic bottlenose dolphins acquired from Ocean World, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Since present circumstances would appear to indicate a threat to the health and welfare of these individual dolphins, U.S. standards would require that the dolphins be recaptured and returned to the public display facility. Therefore, we are requesting that, in consultation with appropriate veterinary staff, these dolphins be recaptured and returned to IMS for medical assessment, and continued care.

We would appreciate written notification as soon as possible on describing the specific circumstances of the dolphins' release and any attempts to recapture them. If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact Ms. Ann Terbush, Chief, Permits Division, at 301-713-2289.

Sincerely,

William W. Fox, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
Office of Protected Resources

cc: Mr. Roberto Guerra, DIGEPESCA
Mr. John Twiss, Marine Mammal Commission
Dr. Morley Cook, APHIS



[22] From: Ann Hochman 1/24/96 2:15PM (736 bytes: 9 ln)

To: Ann Hochman

Subject: Release of IMS dolphins

----- Message Contents -----

Called Tropical Predictions of Weather Service in Miami (305) 229-4402 to confirm recent tropical storm or hurricane near Honduras. The last one they had that would have affected IMS was "Roxanne" back in October. There have been two others, Sebastian and Tonya but they did not affect Honduras. Therefore, severe weather conditions could have been present since this area gets heavy rains but there have been no recent hurricanes, etc. Circumstances of weather-related release are unclear.

[13] From: Ann Terbush at ~NMFS-4 1/19/96 1:40PM (2802 bytes: 30 ln)
To: Gary Barone at ~NMFS-1, Patricia Bradley, Laurel Bryant, Jeannie Drevenak,
Cindy Driscoll, Joe Eisch, Carol Fairfield, Ann Hochman, Art Jeffers,
Ruth Johnson, Yultia O'Neal, Trevor Spradlin, Heather Zornetzer, William Fox
at ~NMFS-1, Pat Montanio at ~NMFS-5, Martin Freeman at Banyan
Subject: Honduras-Dolphins

----- Forwarded -----
From: Marine Mammals Research and Conservation Discussion at ~INTERNET 1/19/96 1
:02PM (2299 bytes: 30 ln)
To: MARMAM@UVVM.BITNET at ~INTERNET
Subject: Honduras-Dolphins

----- Message Contents -----
Honduras-Dolphins

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) -- Eight dolphins shipped here from a Florida marine park 16 months ago were being sought in the Caribbean after they escaped from their pool at a luxury hotel during a storm.

Julio Galindo, owner of Anthony's Key Resort in the Roatan Bay Islands off Honduras' northern coast, said Thursday the dolphins had been missing for 10 days and that resort workers were still searching for them.

"The strong winds destroyed the natural barriers that kept them in ... and the dolphins will die if we don't find them quickly." Galindo added.

He said six of the dolphins were born in captivity, and did not know how to look for food.

The missing dolphins were among 12 that were shipped to the Central American resort in September 1994, one month after Ocean World in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was shut down.

The Humane Society of the United States had fought to have the dolphins sent to a federally licensed facility in the Florida Keys. But a judge threw out the organization's request for a restraining order to prevent the animals from being shipped to Honduras.

The dolphins' fate drew attention after Ocean World received approval from the state in August 1994 to send them to Anthony's Key Resort. The Honduran facility has 11 show dolphins that also swim with tourists. Four of its original 15 have died since the resort opened in 1989.

Animal welfare activists have called for a moratorium on marine mammal exports until rules can be written on how to assess foreign parks.

ROATAN INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES

SANDY BAY
ROATAN, HONDURAS
(504) 45-1327
FAX: (504) 45-1329

To: M. Dodds Date: March 20, 1996
Fax #: 0171 706 0715 Pages: 1, including this cover sheet.
From: Eldon Bolton
Subject: 3/20/96 fax

COMMENTS:

The dolphins that escaped from this facility on January 8, 1996 were transported from the United States in September of 1994. Six of the eight were born in captivity. One was captured in Florida, U.S.A. on June 1, 1970 and one captured in Florida, U.S.A. on January 28, 1988. The U.S.A. display permit under which the animals were transferred did not allow for the animals to be released from their pens. Prior to their accidental release due to severe weather damage, these animals had no previous experience in these waters. The animals were spotted together on January 11, 1996 showing signs of significant weight loss indicating that they were not finding food. The animals were fed all day but lost track of by sundown. That was the last time that the animals were seen.

Although I would like to share in your optimism concerning the animals survivorship, common sense dictates otherwise. If you locate an atlas you will find that the island of Roatan lies about 35 miles to the north of Honduras and is surrounded by waters from one thousand to several thousand meters in depth. The two animals that had previous experience in the wild were captured along the Florida coast. They inhabited the coast and seldom moved offshore for any length of time, usually during inclement weather. Their previous wild experiences would not prepare them for life in the open ocean, not even taking into consideration the amount of time spent away from the wild. The remaining six had no previous survival skills. Considering the extent of the coastal search involved, the size of the area searched and the apparent inability to forage successfully based on their appearance when last sighted, I assume that they became a part of the food chain.

I have no doubt that captive animals can be successfully returned to the wild. It takes a great deal of time. The animals must be exposed to everyday situations and allowed to develop feeding techniques and strategies. They must familiarize themselves with the area. They must learn where to go in bad weather. There are a thousand things to learn. It is not as simple as turning them out to never be seen again. As an organization dedicated to the welfare and protection of dolphins, whales and other marine mammals, I can only urge you to consider these points should you choose to back a release program. Ours was an accident. Others have ended prematurely simply because the funding ran out. No one would ever want to admit to a failed effort.

As for collecting replacements, we have no intention of doing so at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Eldon Bolton